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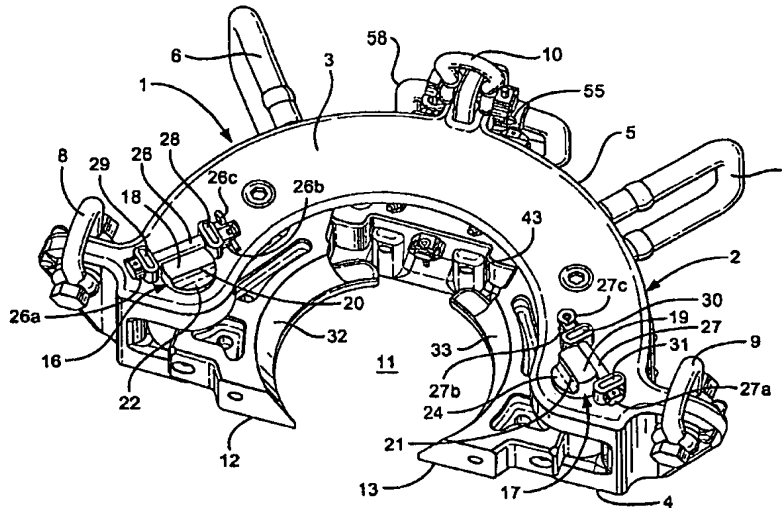
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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR FACILITATING HANDLING PIPE



(57) Abstract: An apparatus for facilitating handling pipe, the apparatus comprising a body (2) defining an open throat (11), and at least one jaw (12, 13) having a concave side for engaging a pipe the concave side having two opposed ends characterised in that said at least one jaw (12, 13) further comprises a jaw portion (14a, 15a) extending behind said concave side, said jaw portion hingedly mounted (16, 17) to said body (2) between said two opposed ends about which said at least one jaw (12, 13) is rotatable with respect to the body (2) to engage a pipe. A method for facilitating handling pipe, the apparatus of the invention, the method comprising the steps of lowering the throat of the apparatus over a pipe, the at least one jaw rotating to engage the pipe.